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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Resource mobilization for the implementation of the regional action programme for phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Decade

1. The Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994, was proclaimed by the General Assembly by its resolution 39/227 of 18 December 1984. The Decade was launched with the following aims:

(a) To raise the transport and communications infrastructural facilities of developing countries in the region to a level commensurate with their development objectives and priorities, giving particular attention to the special needs of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries of the region;

(b) To identify systematically and in a comprehensive manner the problems of transport and communications;

(c) To promote a more effective and efficient transport and communications network comprising all modes and means in an integrated way, in particular for the development of intraregional and interregional transport and communications linkages, as well as in the fields of maintenance and coordination of networks, tariff setting and physical planning;

(d) To encourage effective coordination and cooperation in the field of transport and communications in the region.

2. Following decisions by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the lead organization for the implementation of the Decade programmes, a mid-term review of the Decade was undertaken from the end of 1989 to mid-1990. The mid-term review aimed to assess the impact of the programmes carried out in the first quinquennium of the Decade on national plans and policies in the Asian and Pacific region, identify crucial short- and long-term transport and communications problems, and determine priorities for the second quinquennium of the Decade.

3. As the result of the mid-term review and for the purpose of creating a greater impact of the Decade, the Commission decided to adopt a new strategy for the second quinquennium of the Decade, which included the formulation and implementation of a new regional action programme through closer cooperation of the countries and organizations concerned. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1991/75 of 26 July 1991, endorsed the strategy and urged appropriate international organizations, particularly the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to contribute effectively to the formulation and implementation of the regional action programme. It also invited all Governments, in particular those of the donor countries and others in a position to do so, to contribute and participate effectively in the implementation of the regional action programme for achieving the objectives of the Decade. To permit all parties concerned to formulate the regional action programme, the time-frame of the second quinquennium of the Decade (phase II) was readjusted by the General Assembly to cover the period 1992-1996.

4. The regional action programme for phase II of the Decade, comprising 47 activities, was developed through the collaborative efforts of 11 agencies: ESCAP; the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Universal Postal Union (UPU), the World Bank, the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and the South Pacific Forum secretariat. It was endorsed by the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications, which was held at Bangkok in June 1992.

B. Issue of resource mobilization

5. The implementation of the regional action programme depends on the successful mobilization of resources from donors. The concerned agencies are responsible, individually or jointly, for securing the necessary funds for the implementation of their activities in the regional action programme.

6. In reviewing the progress on the implementation of the regional action programme, ESCAP, at its forty-ninth session, held at Bangkok in April 1993, expressed concern over the inadequate level of extrabudgetary contributions made available by donors. Realizing that the activities in the regional action programme had been limited to the minimum in order to ensure effective implementation and that a final evaluation of the Decade was required to assess its impact, ESCAP brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council the need to encourage donors to be actively involved in the implementation of

the regional action programme. The Council subsequently brought the issue to the attention of the General Assembly, which adopted resolution 48/177 of 21 December 1993.

7. In that resolution, the General Assembly requested the Governing Council of UNDP to keep under review the level of funding to be provided for the implementation of the regional action programme, so that phase II (1992-1996) of the Decade would have a greater impact; requested bilateral donors to take note of General Assembly decision 46/453, so as to ensure that the programme approved by the 1992 Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications would be implemented effectively; invited all Governments in a position to do so to contribute to the implementation of the programme approved by the Meeting of Ministers; and requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its forty-ninth session on the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted in response to that request.

II. OVERVIEW OF THE FUNDING SITUATION

8. All funds for the implementation of the regional action programme are provided on a voluntary basis. It is, therefore, important to recognize that the level of funds mobilized for the implementation of the regional action programme is one criterion to measure the success of the Decade. To date, approximately $30 million have been contributed or pledged by various donors for the implementation of 34 of the 47 activities in the regional action programme. This amount represents contributions/pledging in cash and therefore excludes contributions/pledging in kind, such as the provision of non-reimbursable experts and equipment. While 72 per cent of the activities in the regional action programme are under implementation, it should be noted that in most cases the level of contributions/pledging for those activities is inadequate to ensure full implementation.

9. Table 1 shows the contributions/pledging made available from 1992 to the present by source.

Table 1. Resource mobilization for the implementation of the regional action programme for phase II (1992-1996) of the Decade: contributions/pledging made available from 1992 to the present by source

Donor	Amount (United States dollars)	Percentage
Donor agency:		
UNDP	21 902 626	73
Bilateral donors:		
Australia	219 100	
Canada	189 742	
France	74 578	
Germany	845 089	
Japan	646 565	
Netherlands	1 259 837	
Republic of Korea	100 000	
Subtotal	3 334 911	11
Commercial sector		
Japan	4 750 000	16
Total	29 987 537	100

III. CONTRIBUTIONS/PLEDGING BY SOURCE

A. United Nations Development Programme

10. UNDP is, to date, the largest contributor to the implementation of the regional action programme. A total of $21.9 million has been earmarked through the approval of the programmes and the continuation of projects as shown in table 2.

Table 2. UNDP contributions to the implementation of the regional action programme for phase II (1992-1996) of the Decade

(As at August 1994)

Programme/project	Amount (United States dollars)	Duration
Programme for economic reforms through enhanced transport and communications services (RAS/92/038)	12 000 000	1993-1997
Indo-China subregional programme (civil aviation) (RAS/93/101)	1 325 315	1993-1995
Regional network on control and regulatory measures concerning motor vehicle emissions	557 311	1992-1994
Regional programme for the prevention and management of marine pollution in the East Asian seas (RAS/92/G/34)	8 000 000	1994-1998
Total	21 902 626	

11. Furthermore, UNDP in March-April 1994 fielded a resource mobilization mission in the region for possible co-financing from other donors in support of its regional programme RAS/92/038. The outcome of the mission is expected in due course. It should be noted that a meeting of the mid-term review of aid coordinators on the fifth cycle projects and programmes is scheduled to take place in March 1995. It will review and assess the implementation of the above-mentioned UNDP programmes/project. A report of the mid-term review will be considered by the UNDP Programme Review Committee.

B. Bilateral donors

12. As shown in table 1, $3.3 million have been contributed by the Governments of Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea. The bilateral resources are mainly for the implementation of the ESCAP activities in the regional action programme, including one joint ESCAP/IMO activity. It should also be noted that the Governments of France, Germany, Japan and the Republic of Korea have been providing experts on non-reimbursable loan to ESCAP in support of the Decade.

C. Commercial sector

13. As for the commercial sector, $4.75 million has been contributed from Japan during the period 1993-1994 for the implementation of a UPU activity.

IV. CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

14. Clearly, the level of resources mobilized to date is still insufficient. No funds have been secured for the implementation of 13 of the 47 activities in the regional action programme. As indicated earlier, the funds secured for the implementation of most activities are not adequate to ensure full implementation. Noting the decrease in the available funds of UNDP, the implementing agencies of the regional action programme have been continuing their individual as well as joint efforts to seek new donors. It should be reiterated that greater support is essential from the current donors and others in a position to provide funds for the effective implementation of the regional action programme.